



Agenda Item	Outcome
Welcome and Apologies	<p>The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed all members and observers to the meeting. The Chair welcomed Mr Ross Daley, Marine Biologist, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and thanked him for his attendance.</p> <p>Attendance Chairperson Neil Ward</p> <p>Management Advisory Committee Representatives Mr Shane Castle Mr Robert Toyer (nominee) Mr Darren Ward Mr Richard Bagnato Mr Paul Bagnato Mr Peter Plunkett Ms Anissa Lawrence (nominee) Ms Fiona Hill</p> <p>Observers Mr Andrew Goulstone Mr Darren Hale Mr Bill Hoskin Mr Glenn Staples Mr Darren Reynolds Mr John Harrison (Professional Fisherman's Association) Mr Ross Daley (CSIRO)</p> <p>Apologies Mr Murray Ham</p> <p>Meeting commenced: 09:30AM (National Marine Science Centre – Coffs Harbour)</p>



Agenda Item	Outcome
Agreement on agenda	Agenda agreed.
Confirmation of draft minutes	<p>The outcomes from previous meeting were approved.</p> <p>Action – I&I NSW to update the draft outcomes on the I&I NSW website with the final outcomes.</p>
Correspondence sent and received	The correspondence received and sent was noted.
Business arising from previous minutes	<p>List of actions noted and updated.</p> <p>Industry representatives were advised that the OTMAC request to allow for two lobsters to be retained per trawler will be assessed under the “Guidelines for Review of Species Restrictions in NSW Commercial Fisheries” being developed as part of the Pymont Pact program.</p> <p>Action – I&I NSW to amend the status for the action item regarding retaining lobsters to “Pending”.</p> <p>The Committee noted advice from AFMA that no quantitative recommendations could be made on the results of its research into the use of sweeps in the deepwater prawn trawl fishery due to the small number of observer trips that were able to be undertaken thus limiting the amount of data available. Industry advised that they were willing to work with AFMA in conducting further research, however, future observer programs would be on a cost recovery basis for the use of any fishing boat used to conduct the research. It was noted that this was a Commonwealth issue that industry should discuss with the appropriate AFMA manager.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the minimum size limit for silver trevally and industry’s request for species size limit consistency between Commonwealth and State fisheries for travelling stocks. Committee agreed that this issue warranted some priority and would be best addressed in isolation through a separate independent process involving consultation between AFMA, industry and relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Action – I&I NSW to arrange a workshop with stakeholders to address concerns over the current size limit for Silver Trevally in NSW, noting the priority to develop the overall reform program for the OTF.</p>

<p>Updates</p>	<p>The Committee noted the updates provided by I&I NSW Management, Research and Compliance.</p> <p>I&I provided an update on the progress of negotiations with the Commonwealth regarding the Offshore Constitutional Settlement (OCS) arrangements, the Restricted Southern Fish Trawl (SFT) Fishery, catch sharing and joint stock assessments. The Committee was informed that AFMA and I&I NSW has now established a Reference Group comprising industry stakeholders from both NSW and the Commonwealth, which will play a central role in identifying options for improved future management arrangements of the SFT.</p> <p>I&I NSW provided an update on the Mulloway Resource Planning Group (RPG). Following its first meeting held in June this year, the RPG has recommended the adoption of a number of major new actions to assist with the recovery of the species. Mr John Harrison (PFA) also informed the Committee that an industry proposal had been successful with its application for funding from Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority to assist with trials of Bycatch Reduction Devices for their effectiveness at excluding juvenile mullocky, such as the Radial Escape Panel.</p> <p>The Committee was informed of the new arrangements for fishing business management charges effective from 1 January 2011 and the Ministers recent decision to defer the flat management charge until 1 July 2011.</p> <p>I&I NSW updated the Committee on the progress of the Pymont Pact including the Exit Grant program. I&I NSW is currently progressing the Pymont Pact reform process in a more structured and efficient way with a primary focus and priority being given to: expediting ocean trawl and spanner crab reforms; regulation streamlining; and a comprehensive review of fishing closures.</p> <p>Research update information papers, by Dr Kevin Rowling on finfish research and Dr Steve Montgomery's invertebrate research were provided to the Committee. The Committee noted that Dr Montgomery offered to present a summary of the results: <i>Studies on the growth and mortality of school prawns</i>, however due to the large amount of high priority issues on the agenda, it was agreed that the presentation should be given at a later date.</p> <p>I&I NSW Compliance provided a presentation and the Committee noted the good compliance rate. I&I NSW Compliance emphasised the requirement for fishers to have their licence and fishing business cards in possession during fishing operations.</p>
<p>Deepwater Dogfish Shark survey.</p>	<p>Mr Ross Daley, CSRIO Scientist provided the Committee with a presentation on the outcomes of sampling surveys and tagging work conducted between the northern NSW border and the east coast of Tasmania over the past year to improve the understanding of the distribution of certain gulper shark species (dogfish), such as the Endeavour, Harrison's and Southern dogfish and the Greeneye Spurdog.</p> <p>The Committee was informed that Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and</p>

	<p>Communities (SEWPAC) is currently reviewing the nomination of the Endeavour, Harrison's and Southern Dogfish to be listed on the National Threatened Species list. Based on the outcomes of the additional sampling surveys undertaken by CSIRO and the proposed management of dogfish into the future by both I&I NSW and AFMA it is hoped that the listing will not exceed 'Conservation Dependent'.</p> <p>Committee members reiterated their comments raised at the previous OTMAC meeting that it was their belief that dogfish stocks are sustainable and that any changes in catches over recent years may be associated with reduced effort targeting royal red prawns due to their low market value and high fuel costs. Industry was also concerned that the proposed conservation status for the dogfish would impact royal red prawn grounds should the prawn species again become profitable in the future.</p>
<p>Trip Limits for certain Dogfish species.</p>	<p>The Committee was informed that on 1 May 2010 the Commonwealth amended their trip limit for key dogfish species to a 15 kg daily limit, or no more than 90 kg over a six day trip. The Committee noted that ACoRF had recently supported a zero bag limit for the recreational fishery and charter sector for all dogfish species.</p> <p>The Committee supported I&I NSW's action to initially undertake a risk assessment of commercial and recreational methods and areas prior to making any recommendation on potential spatial closures. In the interim the Committee supported implementing complimentary arrangements with the Commonwealth and reduce the current commercial 65 kg to a 15 kg trip limit for NSW ocean waters.</p> <p>Action – I&I NSW to amend current closure to a 15 kg trip limit for dogfish species.</p>
<p>Workshop - Reforms for the OT Fishery</p>	<p>The majority of the two day meeting focused on providing the Committee with background information and data to facilitate discussions and assist in the development of a consultation paper on reforms for the Ocean Trawl Fishery (OTF). The Committee was advised of I&I NSW's consultation and Act amendment process and the restrictive timeframe in order to have any amendment Bills tabled in Parliament's spring session late in 2011, if necessary.</p> <p>A summary of the Committee's comments / recommendations as a result of these discussions are as follows:</p> <p>Process for shareholder consultation</p> <p><i>Locations for port meetings</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestion that meetings at Nelsons Bay & possibly South West Rocks may not be required due to limited number of endorsement holders at these ports. • Industry advised that the preferred day for the Sydney meeting was a Friday – non fishing day.

- Meeting's should be primarily treated as "Information sessions" only
- Suggestion to hold two smaller sessions at each location, rather than single large meetings.
- Relevant MAC representatives to be present at each meeting.

Action - I&I NSW to determine the number of SFT fishers also holding NFT endorsements as this may warrant an additional port meeting at Wollongong.

Mechanism for taking formal submissions

- Prefer submissions to be in a "Questionnaire" format with specific questions to address specific issues.
- Allow space for a written response under each question, should the fisher wish to elaborate.
- PFA supports recording submissions on behalf of either an individual or a group where requested.

Current Environment

Effort levels in the fishery

- The Committee noted the significant reduction in endorsements across each sector of the OTF since the implementation of the *Fisheries Management (Ocean Trawl Share Management Plan) Regulation (SMP)*.
- The Committee acknowledged the overall reduction in effort of the number of days worked, but saw a need to also graph catch rates data as a means of comparing relationship & long term trends between catch and effort.

Action – I&I NSW to prepare graph of catch data to show relationship trends between numbers of days worked and the catch landed over the past five years to present at the subsequent workshop.

Action – I&I NSW to provide the Committee with information on Queensland model regarding its strategies/principles for managing effort levels.

Vision for the OT Fishery

Vision Statement

- Advice was requested from the Committee on the wording for a preferred vision statement for the OTF. Two statements were presented, one suggested by I&I NSW and the other being a slight variation proposed by the PFA. The Committee were supportive of either statement or variation thereof.

Action – I&I NSW to adopt the following vision statement for the OTF: “A profitable, affordable fishery with resource security to achieve sustainable optimal catch levels using modern efficient technology to supply fresh local seafood at premium market prices.”

Developing Adjustment Targets

- The Committee were briefed on the need for developing long term targets and were presented with cumulative GVP graphs (fin. year 06/07 & 07/08) for each of the trawl sectors to assist with their discussions on determining possible targets.
- Committee members advised that prior to establishing a target consideration would need to be given to issues such as: geographical dispersion of fleet; profitability (guaranteed return on investment); social issues; safety and efficiency; harvesting strategies (optimum size of product at harvest - premium product & quality); and marketing and consumer education.

Adjustment Targets

- Committee members were briefed on the proposal to establish a 10 year target which incorporated industry recommended adjustment milestones and monitoring every two and a half years.
- The Committee was comfortable with the active level of effort operating at current levels of capacity and suggested a target to reflect this current status. This would entail approximately 80 fishing businesses in the prawn trawl sector (includes inshore, offshore & deepwater sectors) and approximately 20 fishing businesses in the fish trawl sector.
- Members preferred an option that allows fishers to plan with a gradual implementation over time. There was general concern about the potential impact of adjustment on small historical operators.
- Members concerned that raising minimum shareholding from 40 to 70 as the next step was too steep and needed to be implemented over an extended timeframe with continual monitoring and reassessment in order to achieve a desired target.

- Consideration needs to be given to not establishing too high a figure for a minimum shareholding to ensure that there is still a pool of shares available, so as to not impact unduly on any other current investment planning by fishers.
- Committee members believed fishers should get something (days / net) for investment in more shares.
- Investigate possibility of obtaining Government funding to underpin / achieve strategy milestones, it was suggested by the Committee that having a set reform plan may improve the likelihood of receiving funding from the Government or other non-Government sources for restructuring.

Action – I&I NSW to workup data to address effort monitoring factor strategies (i.e. assumptions, target/timeframes, monitoring).

Action – I&I NSW to compile data on fisher activity against number of fishing business / shareholders to assist with determining where the impact will be in respect to active / inactive participants.

Action – I&I NSW to investigate calculating current Net Unit Days.

Action – I&I NSW to model data for a minimum shareholding of 50 for inshore, offshore & northern fish trawl.

Consistent Boat Replacement Rules & Net Length Restrictions

The Committee discussed the recently developed boat replacement guidelines for the OP trawl sector and the other options to allow for easier boat replacements. The Committee was provided with an overview of the issues surrounding the current restrictive arrangements applying to unitised boats, hull capacity and engine power limitations and requested to consider moving away from these rules to assist with the proposed adjustment program.

The Committee also discussed the option of consistent net length restrictions, noting that the current arrangements across the OFT Fishery are overly complex with four different arrangements for IP, OP, DP and NFT.

There was general discussion regarding the unitisation, with the following comments raised:

- Engine restrictions difficult to enforce with horse power (HP) on most new engines now being able to be electronically adjusted / set.
- Engine efficiency is impacted by several other factors, such as installing greater HP and then de-rating, propeller design, fitment of Kort nozzles etc.
- A proposal was tabled to restrict engines being trimmed to 60-68% load rather than a continuous rating (revs), it was noted that similar enforcement issues would exist as current HP restrictions.
- Hull size determines the quantity of fish able to be processed / taken, whereas HP & net length determine how much fish can

	<p>be caught.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net restrictions are equally as important as HP, and can effectively restrict HP. <p>The following comments relate to a proposal for removal of unitisation restrictions in the OTF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • major concerns over any proposal to remove HP restriction, as some members believed that this would result in a blow out in effort (increase in effective catching power); • general concerns that loosening / removal of current effort controls would result in activation of latent effort, particularly if all were removed at once; • Some industry representatives suggested that consideration needs to be given to the fisher's investment and history behind current controls when determining removal of a control. <p>In general, Committee members were more supportive of developing a strategy with a flexible timeline that allows for changes to restrictions (i.e. HP) to commence as target milestones are achieved (i.e. as number of FBs are reduced).</p> <p>The Committee noted that in conjunction with a timeline there would be a risk based system developed to monitor sustainability triggers and respond accordingly. The NCC representative raised concerns over what sort of responses to the triggers would be implemented should current boat restrictions be lifted / relaxed. The Committee noted that possible responses could be to reduce activities on the water through spatial / gear closures. It was agreed that a framework would be required to demonstrate how sustainability issues would be addressed.</p> <p>Action – I&I NSW collate data on the number of licensed unitised boats (18-20m lengths).</p> <p>Action – I&I NSW to include examples in the consultation paper to demonstrate how I&I NSW would respond to any sustainability triggers if activated.</p>
Other Business	<p>Fish Trawl Gear</p> <p>Committee members requested an increase to the maximum size of rubber discs permitted for fish trawl from 100 mm to 150mm. Industry believe that the size increase is justified on the basis that industry is committed to the implementation of management responses in the OTFMS, and has closed waters greater than 1100 m in depth, and is progressing towards mapping trawling grounds and implementing closures for protection of a range of habitats and associated biodiversity. The outcomes of the report <i>Review of 'Bobbin Gear' in the NSW Ocean Trawl Fishery</i> were discussed, noting that the key recommendation from this report was to map trawl grounds and restrict the grounds on which rubber discs may be used.</p>

The Committee noted an update on an issue relating to a single rope fitted through the codend within 10 meshes of the codend drawstring for the purpose of spilling the codend safely when large quantities of leatherjackets are caught incidentally.

Action – I&I NSW to investigate the increase of bobbin gear to 150 mm for the SEFT, NFT, including north of Seal Rocks.

Action – I&I NSW to amend clause 7A(1)(b) of the SMP to provide for the fitment of a single length of rope within 10 meshes of the codend drawstring, for the purpose of spilling the codend in an Otter trawl net (fish).

Prawn Trawl Gear

Advice was sought from the Committee to increase the maximum size of codend mesh for diamond and square mesh for Otter trawl net (prawns). The Committee supported an increase to a maximum of 65 mm for the diamond mesh and 55 mm for square mesh. The Committee also discussed increasing the minimum codend diamond-mesh size, the Committee agreed that they had previously recommended an increase to 43 mm at a workshop held in Maclean.

Action – I&I NSW to refer to outcomes of meeting held in Maclean to ascertain industry's recommended minimum codend mesh size (43 mm) and check whether the minimum mesh size provided for in the section 37 permit reflected this recommendation.

New Harvesting Strategies

Advice was sought from the Committee regarding proposals to improve harvesting strategies. The Committee was supportive of adopting new closure regimes to assist with optimising catch and quality.

Action – I&I NSW to investigate moving the Ballina Juvenile King Prawn closure proposal as a priority into Regulation Streamlining priority list.

Action – I&I NSW to prepare a map showing the Region 5 proposal to move OCS line adjacent to Cable protection zones.

Action – Industry representatives to consult with constituents on harvesting strategies / concepts to optimise catch rates and product quality and to provide feedback to I&I NSW at next workshop.

Action – I&I NSW to review the number of prawn trawl endorsement holders using prawn gear to target whiting, who also hold a fish trawl endorsement.

Action – I&I NSW to repackage reform proposals prior to the end of January 2011 in order to present at next meeting in February 2011.



	<p>Trip limits</p> <p>The Committee discussed the current Trip Limits applying to the OTF and strongly supported the following several changes for listed species in order to prevent unnecessary discarding. Refer to Attachment 1 for more information.</p> <p>Action – I&I NSW to review current trip limits, taking into account the industry recommendations as well as any sustainability concerns, noting that further consultation with AFMA will be required on this matter.</p>
Chairperson summary and next meeting date	<p>The Chairperson thanked all members and observers for their attendance and contributions to discussions during the meeting.</p> <p>The Chair proposed that the next meeting be held 17th & 18th February 2010.</p>

Summary of industry recommendations re: trip limits


Attachment 1

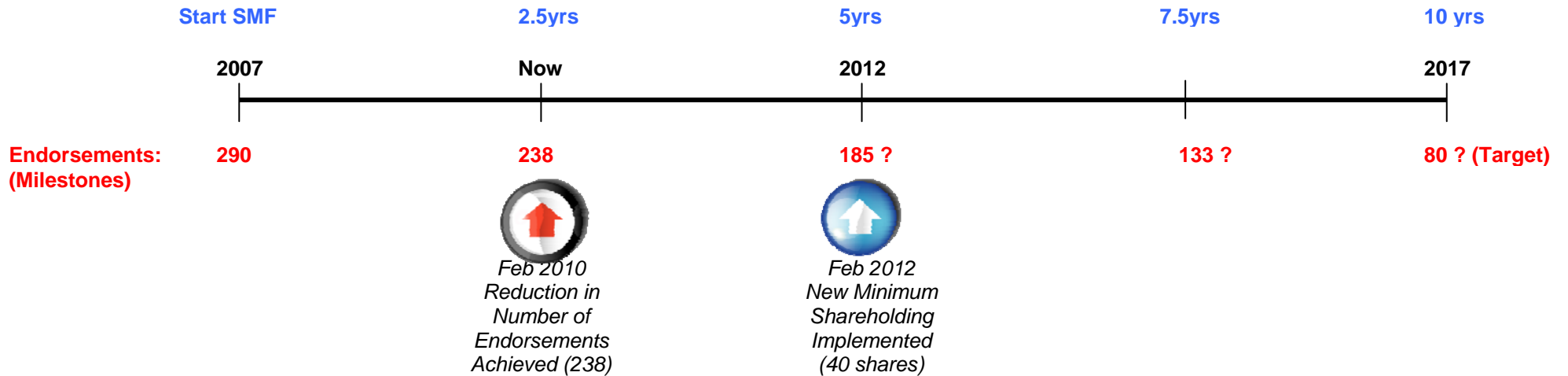
Species	Period/Waters	MAC recommendation
Orange Roughy, smooth oreo dory, black oreo dory, spiky oreo dory and warty oreo dory. 0kg.	Year round, all waters	Remove, the current deepwater closure >1100m prevents capture of these species.
Pink ling, mirror dory, blue-eye trevalla, blue grenadier and royal red prawns. 0kg.	Year round, west of 3nm line.	Remove, species not caught inside 3nm limit.
Redfish, 250kg whole weight on board.	1 Nov – 31 Dec; 1 Jan – 30 June. All waters north of Barrenjoey Headland.	Remove, can sometimes result in dumping. Industry report that there are more redfish on NSW fishing grounds since the Commonwealth buyout.
Redfish, 1000kg whole weight on board.	1 July – 31 October. All waters north of Barrenjoey Headland.	
Redfish, 100kg whole weight on board.	Year round. All waters south of Barrenjoey Headland.	Remove. Unlikely to catch redfish within 3nm??
Blue warehou, 100kg whole weight on board.	Year round, all waters.	Remove, species not caught in NSW.
Spotted warehou, 50kg whole weight on board.	Year round, all waters.	Remove, species not caught in NSW.
Jackass morwong, 50kg whole weight on board.	Year round. All waters north of Barrenjoey Headland.	Remove, species not caught in NSW.
Jackass morwong, 350kg whole weight on board.	Year round. All waters south of Barrenjoey Headland.	Remove, species not caught in NSW.
Ocean perch, 500kg whole weight on board.	1 Jan – 31 March. All waters north of Barrenjoey Headland.	Remove. Results in unnecessary dumping.
Ocean perch, 1000kg whole weight on board.	1 April – 31 December. All waters north of Barrenjoey Headland.	Remove. Can sometimes result in unnecessary dumping.
Ocean perch, 300kg whole weight on board.	Year round. All waters south of Barrenjoey Headland.	Remove, species not caught south of Barrenjoey in NSW waters.
Tiger flathead, tooth/goldspot flathead, sand flathead and yank flathead. 200kg whole weight on board.	Year round. All waters south of Barrenjoey Headland.	Remove, results in the most dumping out of any of the trip limits. Tiger flathead/blue spot flathead maintain length restrictions.

Current Environment
Threats to Sustainability / Viability – “Brainstorming” exercise.

Threats to sustainability / viability			2010 Active + 68 prawn + 20 NRT	Target nos / (assuming current capacity) Prawn + 80 + current - 68	Fish + Same as current - 20
Prawn	Fish	Both			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Effort ↑ over current level * Excess shares / units * * Loss of access (MPI's) * * Inputs costs (eg. fuel) * * Product price (competition) → 0/s + interstate free trade agreements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Trip limits (dumping) (cables, energy exploration (wind farms, gas exploration, etc)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Lack of 'new blood' * * Habitat loss * Resource sharing * Poor accuracy of information * Climate change * Poor product handling / playing the market * Ecosystem (trophic level) changes * Inefficient boats * Mgt complexity / cost * Slow response times * Lack of overall game plan to achieve level of adjustment 			
Scenario TOFB.					
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Limited business flexibility * " operational efficiency

Ocean Trawl Fishery - 10 Year Plan

➤ Net length	Priority 1	What can we manage?	➤ Net length	60m
➤ Hull length	" 2		➤ Hull length	✓
➤ Hull units	" 3		➤ Hull units	X
➤ Engine units	" 1		➤ Engine units	X
➤ Rule (unitised boats for offshore)	" 0		➤ Rule	X
➤ Max 20m	" 0		➤ Max 20m	✓



Effort Monitoring Factors

- 1. Net (m) > NLD
 - 2. Days > NLD
- } Strategies to manage effort.....

Calculate total NLD
- Now & monitor